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UNITED STATES SENATOR • ALABAMA

FAX

TO: Acting Commissioner David Aguilar

OFFICE: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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NOTE: _____

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

January 31, 2012

Mr. David V. Aguilar
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Commissioner Aguilar:

I am writing to bring your attention to a matter of great importance to some of my constituents.

Standard Furniture Manufacturing Co, Inc. (Standard), an American furniture producer based in Bay Minette, Alabama, employs nearly 600 people in my state. I am advised that Standard has brought a lawsuit to the Court of International Trade (CIT) challenging the legality of parts of the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (CDSOA). As a result, in February 2011, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agreed to hold \$10 million for Standard until January 31, 2012, pending the resolution of the lawsuit. It is my understanding that CBP has decided to continue withholding these funds until March. I appreciate CBP's decision to continue holding these funds so the lawsuit can resolved.

For many years, Standard has been a substantial employer in south Alabama. Standard's continued presence in the area provides employment and tax revenue that is crucial to the community. If it were not for Standard, unemployment in Baldwin and Monroe counties – 7.4% and 13.4% respectively – would be even higher.

Standard challenges the constitutionality of parts of CDSOA. They deserve a fair hearing in our court system. I do not wish to indicate that I have in any way reviewed the legal merits of this lawsuit, but it appears that withholding these funds until the case is resolved makes sense today just as it made sense in 2011. The attached letters from local officials demonstrate the community's strong support for Standard. I appreciate CBP's assistance to Standard up to this point, and I hope you continue to monitor the progress of this lawsuit so the withheld funds are released at an appropriate time.

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I appreciate you taking the time to consider this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if I can be of any assistance.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

Enclosures

JS: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)